



HR1368

LRB099 22556 GRL 49986 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of former
4 Illinois State Representative Vincent A. "Vince" Persico, who
5 passed away on July 21, 2016; and

6 WHEREAS, Vincent Persico was born on December 9, 1948 in
7 Oak Park; studying in his native state, he earned a bachelor's
8 degree from the University of Illinois in 1971; pursuing
9 credentials as a teacher, he earned a master's degree from
10 Northern Illinois University in 1986; and

11 WHEREAS, Vince Persico instructed young people in history
12 and government as a Hadley Junior High School teacher for many
13 years until 1988; and

14 WHEREAS, Vince Persico was an involved member of the Glen
15 Ellyn community; he was a member of the Kiwanis Club, the
16 Glenbard West Booster Club, the Hadley Junior High School PTA,
17 and many other clubs and groups, and was active in Glen Ellyn
18 boys' baseball leagues; and

19 WHEREAS, Vince Persico began his life of public service by
20 joining the boards of directors of Glen Ellyn Family Services
21 and the Milton Township Committee on Youth; he also became a

1 trustee for Milton Township, which in the 1980s was a
2 fast-growing township within central DuPage County that was
3 enjoying many challenges and opportunities; and

4 WHEREAS, Seeking to move his public service to the next
5 level, Vince Persico chose to run for election to the Illinois
6 House of Representatives; in an example of persistence in
7 action, he sought the seat and lost twice, in 1986 and in 1988,
8 before winning unanimous election to the House in November of
9 1990 without general-election opposition; in January of 1991,
10 he took his seat in the Illinois House of Representatives,
11 where he would serve for 11 years; and

12 WHEREAS, As a member of the Republican Party, Vince Persico
13 quickly showed an aptitude for bipartisan committee work,
14 serving with colleagues from both parties on the House
15 Committees on Aging, Environment and Energy, Financial
16 Institutions, and Labor; when he began his service in the
17 Illinois General Assembly, the State laws governing relations
18 between Illinois residents and regulated utilities had become
19 suboptimal, especially in the areas of electricity and
20 telecommunications; Illinois laws continued to assume there
21 would be only one big supplier of services in any geographic
22 area and customers would have to take it or leave it; and

23 WHEREAS, As a key member of the House Telecommunications

1 Rewrite Committee, Vince Persico helped to rewrite the Illinois
2 Telecommunications Law; he played a major role in opening up
3 Illinois telecommunications services to consumer-friendly
4 competition and in moving the law from a paradigm based on
5 wireline telecommunications toward the wireless services of
6 the future; the cell phone shops and advertisements that have
7 become ubiquitous features of Illinois life are a tribute to
8 the success of his work; and

9 WHEREAS, As the selected co-chairperson of the Electric
10 Utility Deregulation Committee, Vince Persico played a major
11 role in deregulating supplies of Illinois electricity; one of
12 the most significant legislative achievements he achieved with
13 the help of chosen colleagues, the Illinois Electric Service
14 Customer Choice and Rate Relief Law of 1997, restructured the
15 customer side of the Illinois electric utility industry to
16 offer many Illinois customers a choice between electric
17 suppliers while retaining the right of owners of the "last
18 mile" of electric delivery wire to earn a fair return on their
19 investments; and

20 WHEREAS, In January of 2002, Vince Persico retired from the
21 Illinois House of Representatives to join the private sector;
22 in the private sector, he remained a familiar figure in the
23 Illinois State Capitol in Springfield, educating lawmakers on a
24 wide variety of issues; and

1 WHEREAS, In late 2015, Vince Persico was diagnosed with
2 terminal brain cancer; during his final months of life, he and
3 his wife Donna set an example of courage and fortitude for the
4 members of the Illinois House of Representatives, including his
5 former colleagues; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
8 pay tribute to the memory of former Illinois State
9 Representative Vincent A. Persico and his life of courage, hard
10 work, and public service; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That we express our appreciation for the support
12 given to Vince Persico by his wife Donna and his son Derek
13 Persico, House Republican Senior Legal Counselor and District
14 Office Director in the office of House Republican Leader Jim
15 Durkin; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 delivered to the family of Vincent "Vince" Persico as a symbol
18 of our sympathy and appreciation for his service to the State
19 of Illinois.